

13. (New) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 12, wherein said styrenic elastomeric block copolymer contains one or more glassy polymer blocks made of polymerized styrene monomer in an amount of at least 80 mol% on the total monomer content of the glassy block and one or more elastomeric polymer blocks made of polymerized conjugated diene in an amount of at least 80 mol% on the total monomer content of the elastomeric block.

14. (New) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 13, wherein the conjugated diene is selected from butadiene and isoprene.

15. (New) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 14, wherein each styrenic elastomeric block copolymer has an overall styrene content of 10 to 50% by weight.

A, 16. (New) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 15, wherein said styrenic elastomeric block copolymer has a total apparent molecular weight of from 30,000 to 400,000 g/mol.

17. (New) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 16, wherein said styrenic elastomeric block copolymer is a selectively hydrogenated block copolymer wherein the vinyl content of the conjugated diene block is at least 35 mol% based on the total diene content.

18. (New) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 17, wherein said styrenic elastomeric block copolymer comprises a triblock copolymer or a mixture of a diblock copolymer and a triblock copolymer.

19. (New) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 18, wherein said styrenic elastomeric block copolymer comprises a mixture of an S-EB-S triblock copolymer having a total molecular weight of about 50,000 to about 100,000 and an S-EP diblock copolymer having a total molecular weight of about 120,000 to about 200,000.

20. (New) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 11, wherein said branched polyolefin is selected from the group consisting of a polymer of 1-butene and a high melt strength polymer of propene.

21. (New) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 20, wherein said branched polyolefin is poly-1-butene having a melt index of about 0.4 dg/min.

22. (New) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 20, wherein said branched polyolefin is present in an amount of 10 to 100 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of said thermoplastic elastomeric block copolymers.

23. (New) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 22, wherein said branched polyolefin is present in an amount of 30 to 80 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of said thermoplastic elastomeric block copolymers.

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24. (New) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 11, wherein said blowing agent is present in an amount from 1 to 10 %wt, based on the weight of the foamed thermoplastic elastomer composition.

25. (New) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 24, wherein said blowing agent is selected from the group consisting of azodicarbonamide, sodium bicarbonate, and mixtures thereof.

26. (New) A synthetic bottle stopper made from a plasticizer-free, foamed thermoplastic elastomer composition comprising:

100 parts by weight of a mixture of a selectively hydrogenated styrene/conjugated diene multi block copolymer and a selectively hydrogenated styrene/conjugated diene diblock copolymer;

10 to 100 parts by weight of a branched polyolefin selected from the group consisting of a polymer of 1-butene and a high melt strength polymer of propene, said polyolefin having a melt flow index of from 0.1 to 200 dg/min (at 2.16 kg/190 °C, determined in accordance with ASTM D 1238);

and a blowing agent in an amount of from 1 to 10 percent weight, based on the total weight of the foamed thermoplastic elastomer composition.

27. (New) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 26, wherein said branched polyolefin is poly-1-butene having a melt index of about 0.4 dg/min.

28. (New) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 26, wherein said blowing agent is selected from the group consisting of azodicarbonamide, sodium bicarbonate, and mixtures thereof.

A, 29. (New) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 26, wherein said multi block copolymer is an S-EB-S triblock copolymer and said diblock copolymer is an S-EP diblock copolymer, and wherein the amount of the triblock copolymer is about 70 to about 90 parts by weight and the amount of the diblock copolymer is about 30 to about 10 parts by weight.

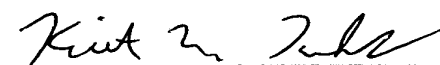
30. (New) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 29, wherein said S-EB-S triblock copolymer has a total molecular weight of about 50,000 to about 100,000 and said S-EP diblock copolymer has a total molecular weight of about 120,000 to about 200,000.

31. (New) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 30 having a density less than 0.7 kg/m³.

REMARKS

The above amendments have been made to remove the multiple dependencies in the claims. Early and favorable action in connection with this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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